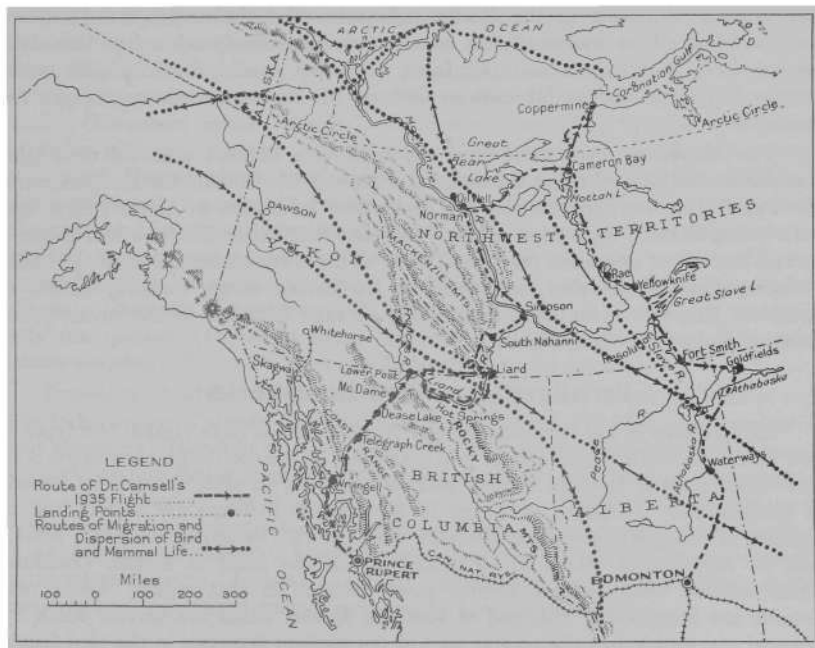


*endi*), Vancouver Island (*fuliginosa*), etc.—do not range north beyond the Alaska peninsula and Aleutian islands. The yellow-shafted flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) of the east ranges into central Yukon and northwestern British Columbia, straggling down the coast as far as Vancouver island.

**The Liard River Gap.**—Many of these anomalies of distribution become much more intelligible in the light of important geographical and geological explorations made by Dr. Charles Camsell in the summer of 1935.<sup>8</sup> Leaving Prince Rupert and passing Wrangell in Alaska, following the Stikine river and passing Telegraph creek, his plane crossed the Pacific-Arctic divide to Dease lake, one of the headwaters of Liard river. Dr. Camsell states:

The plateau east of the Cassiar Range is characterized by a fairly even skyline and by mature, rounded summits which seldom rise above the forest line. Some of it is almost flat. Timber is general and is quite thick in the broad and flaring valleys that flow through the plateau. The divide at Dease Lake is only about 2,600 feet above sea-level, and therefore it is 1,000 feet lower than Yellowhead Pass or 1,700 feet lower than Kicking Horse Pass. At Fort Liard the level is estimated to be about 500 feet.



The Rocky mountains were found to definitely terminate at Liard river, after extending as a continuous group of ranges for about 1,000 miles, and then pass gradually into the plateau region to the north. South of the river the skyline is cut by a series of sharp peaks, which in some places stand well above the timberline, whereas to the north the topography is subdued, with rounded summits that only very occasionally reach beyond the timber-line. The Mackenzie mountains begin at latitude 60° N., immediately west of the Liard, and extend northward and northwesterly for about 600 miles as a gradually broadening belt of mountains, which on the line of the Ross and Gravel rivers have a width of 300 miles, according